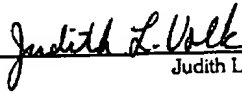


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PATENT

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to Patent Examiner Paulos M. Natnael, Art Unit 2614 at (703) 872-9306 on August 5, 2004.



Judith L. Volk

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): Fengduo Hu, et al.  
Application No.: 09/881,404  
Filed: June 14, 2001  
Group Art Unit: 2614  
Examiner: Paulos M. Natnael  
For: **Start/Stop Audio Encoder Apparatus and Method for Synchronizing Digital Audio and Video Signals**  
Atty Docket No.: SONY-93

Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

August 5, 2004

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE**

Sir:

This Amendment responds to an Office Action dated May 5, 2004. Please amend the application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims that begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 14 of this paper.